

# THE FIELD AFAR

DEVOTED TO THE INTEREST OF CATHOLIC MISSIONS

"DILIGENTIBUS DEUM, OMNIA COOPERANTUR  
IN BONUM."—Rom. viii. 28.



"TO THOSE WHO LOVE GOD, ALL THINGS  
WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD."

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HAPPY HOURS IN INDIA.

From a Photograph sent by Fr. J. Aelen, of Madras.

## SUBSCRIBE NOW.

**THE FIELD AFAR** is a diocesan mission organ, published bi-monthly. It aims to arouse and strengthen interest in the world-wide apostolate.

The Subscription Price is fifty cents a year in advance. New subscriptions may begin at any time during the year.

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Letters should be addressed and orders made payable to Rev. J. A. Walsh, 75 Union Park St., Boston, Mass.

**THE FIELD AFAR** is published by the Catholic Foreign Mission Bureau of Boston.

TO create, among our people, an interest in Catholic missions is the aim of *THE FIELD AFAR*. This is in fact the primary object of our work in the Archdiocese and to this educational feature we attach supreme importance. Gifts for the missions and regular financial support will come as the good work of Catholic missionaries is better known. Our work may never draw the support of *all*, because it can never compel the interest of those whose lives run in irremediably narrow grooves; but the foreign mission idea will yet, we are convinced, affect the majority of our people who will gladly respond as so many are doing now to the appeal which is made to their sympathy.

\* \*

WE want the *attention* of Catholic people. This little publication appears, we know, too infrequently in these days when oft-repeated impressions can best tell. Yet many kind words have been said in its favor and we know that its pages are producing fruit. But the seed must be scattered that others may know. We ask our readers, therefore, to leave copies of *THE FIELD AFAR* where friends will be tempted to look through its pages. Better still, we urge those who find the paper interesting to say so to their friends, and thus to secure for it the widest possible circulation. This is a trite request, yet we make it with the feeling that it will rouse some soul anxious to share in the apostolate, yet unable to leave all for Christ.

\* \*

AN educational factor of no mean value to-day is the use of post-cards, and the Diocesan Office is already prepared to supply some

illustrations of mission work and workers drawn from several of the remote fields.

\* \*

THIS leads us to emphasize the idea that a knowledge of foreign missions can be of distinct value to *teachers*. Already in some of our parochial schools the Sisters in charge have made use of letters and articles to fasten the attention of their pupils on lands which otherwise would have little or no interest for them. A few weeks ago we received a letter from one of our New England High-School teachers, who writes:

"I should think public-school grade teachers could make use of much of the material that appears from month to month in *THE FIELD AFAR*, by mounting the pictures and adapting the text to the needs of their classes, leaving out where advisable, 'sectarian' references. Frequently, however, no cutting or changing is necessary. When I give out my copies at the May meeting, I shall speak of this possibility of practical use in the schoolroom."

The meeting to which this lady refers, is one of several Catholic School teachers banded for mutual spiritual edification. There are, to our knowledge, two such societies in New England, one at Wellesley, Mass., the other at Manchester, N. H.

The missionary idea, if spread in gatherings of this kind, will certainly produce fruit for those interested as well as for the missions.

\* \*

IT is asserted that the Church in Egypt is considerably crushed by the lack of English speaking missionaries, and that, as a rule, Catholic Schools are conducted by French-speaking teachers. It is stated today that England controls the whole country of Egypt from the coast down and as one of our priests, who is conversant on this question, writes: "When John Bull gets a foothold as he did in 1882, he will never relax his grip until he has it a crown dependency.

A Catholic boy or girl in Egypt who desires to enter commercial life must know English and when he cannot find the English language taught in the Catholic Schools, he will naturally turn to the American, English and Irish mission Schools (Protestant) for the information which he desires. In this way, many of our people are lost to the faith.

\* \*

MRS. FITZGERALD BEALE, who has written much on the subject of Catholic Missions is particularly zealous in her efforts to arouse an interest in the foreign missions

among English-speaking people. We learn from a friend of hers, a priest in the South lands of this country that "she is a gentlewoman by birth and a convert to our holy faith, one who made great sacrifices like the old Tractarians. Some of the Hierarchy in Ireland and England as also in Rome, among those in the latter city, Cardinal Merry del Val and Mgr. Stoner have expressed their appreciation of her good work. She spent years in Cairo, Alexandria in the British Circles with her husband who was a special officer. Her brother-in-law is at the head of the Nile missions conducted by the established Church of England.

\* \*

TO the Rev. M. Kennelly, the well-known Jesuit of Shanghai, China, we are indebted, not only for an interesting article on the Catholic mission of Shanghai, published in this issue, but for valuable and timely news from China.

The matter communicated is just what we need on this side of the earth to help us realize the work of our missionaries, and its form is most satisfactory.

\* \*

IT is a pleasure to recommend to our readers the excellent little book entitled "Out of Many Hearts." This small volume contains Thoughts on the Religious vocation which will prove valuable reading for all aspirants to the ecclesiastical or religious life. It is published by the Brothers of Holy Cross, Notre Dame, Indiana.

\* \*

THOSE of our readers who have a knowledge of French, will be pleased to learn that the complete collection of Théophane Vénard's letters will soon be issued in that language. Orders are now being received as announced in another column.

\* \*

ALTHOUGH we are not in a position to publish at once all the letters and photographs received from missionaries, these are carefully noted and filed, each in its own place. The Catholic press of this country will certainly appreciate in time the mine of information and edifying narrative which Catholic missions present. In the meantime our missionaries must be encouraged to write their experiences and to adapt these to English-speaking readers. American-born missionaries will do this quite naturally, but they are up to the present merely a corporal's guard in the great army of Christ beyond the frontiers.

# THE SHANGHAI ROMAN CATHOLIC MISSION IN 1908.

BY REV. M. KENELLY, S. J.

[Fr. Kenelly, S. J., has been many years in China. One of our American priests who met him in Shanghai a few years ago, was quite deceived by his appearance, and not a little surprised to learn that the good Jesuit was not Chinese but Irish by birth, and born in Cork, if we remember well.]

THE work of the Shanghai Roman Catholic Missions extends over two entire Provinces of the Chinese Empire.—Kiangsu and Nganhwei. The Province of Kiangsu is situated towards the East, and has an area of 39,000 square miles with a population of about 30,000,000. It is a seacoast Province, and contains the great commercial emporium of the East,—Shanghai. Nganhwei (the ng or na

aries themselves have at present reached 34. There is also a seminary with 52 students preparing for the ministry.

Shanghai is the centre of the mission, and has four churches, of which one is in the native city, one in the suburbs, and two in the Foreign Settlements. All these have a total Catholic population of 10,000. The Bishop's residence and St. Joseph's Cathedral are in the French Settlement. In the photo annexed, the church and spire stand out in bold relief.

Sicawei, five miles from Shanghai, with which it is now connected by an electric railway, has a large residence, a university with 146 alumni, and a college for native boys of the better class. The college is attended by 230 students. At Sicawei is also found the renowned Jesuit Observatory so famous for the valuable services it ren-

let you have some more for other numbers, and meanwhile recommend myself and the whole mission to your prayers and the members of the propagation of the faith in the Archdiocese of Boston.

Yours gratefully in our Lord,

M. KENELLY, S. J.

St. Joseph's Church,  
Shanghai, China.

✱ ✱

Place a mite-box on your mantel shelf. Put several there if you will, each representing a different charity, and thus train yourself and others to remember a few of the many wants which are pressing some more closely than they are you. The prayers of your beneficiaries will bring back to you a needed grace.



ST. JOSEPH'S CATHEDRAL, SHANGHAI, CHINA.  
(The Bishop's residence may be seen to the left.)



REV. M. KENELLY, S. J.,  
Of Shanghai.

initial has been arbitrarily and unscientifically omitted by many English and American writers) lies to the rear and borders on the Yangtse River, which cuts it in twain, the larger portion being situated to the North. The area of the latter Province is 55,000 square miles and its population 25,000,000. Taking the two Provinces together, we have an exact territory equal to the combined expanse of the States of New York and Pennsylvania. The converts in the two Provinces aggregate 164,000. The laborers in this immense field are the Jesuits of the Paris Province, assisted by native priests. The Jesuits number 202, of whom 156 are priests and 46 ecclesiastical students. The native clergy formed by the mission-

ders to navigation and trade throughout the Far East.

The "Holy Childhood" is doing admirable rescue and educational work in the Tuswei Orphanage, five minutes' walk to the east of the Observatory. The inmates number at present 275. The printing, carpentering, sculpture, drawing and painting executed by the children delight the traveller and the globe-trotter, and impress upon them the great saving and civilizing work performed by the Catholic Church in these remote lands.

Your readers must be satisfied for the present with this brief sketch of the field and its workers. I hope to

## THE GOD OF MIGHT.

AMADEUS, O. S. F.

O, Lord, Thou art a God of Might,  
The King of kings, the Light of light,  
And land and sea yield praise to Thee,  
While tyrants tremble in Thy sight.

Those gone before, in glory shine,  
And we who live and strive, are Thine  
Not yet the rest of saints and blest  
Is ours to claim as gift divine.

Yet, though for us the fight be long,  
Not always Victor is the strong;  
Triumphant stand, at Thy Right Hand,  
Souls, by earth's standard, weak and wrong.

Praise, then, to Thee, from coast to coast,  
May faithful all, in countless host,  
Their homage pay, in joy alway,  
To Father, Son, and Holy Ghost!



## FROM OUR APPRECIATIVE MISSIONARIES.

WE do not expect our missionaries to pay for subscriptions to THE FIELD AFAR, which we will gladly send, on application, to any priest, brother, or nun on the field.

If we can find a benefactor for each, so much the better; if not we prefer to send the paper gratis rather than deprive a missionary of any of his slender income.

\* \*

A SUGGESTION offered in our last issue that gifts of our books and subscriptions to THE FIELD AFAR be sent to missionaries with requests for their prayers was readily adopted by several of our readers. Already replies have come, from which we quote the following:

Nsambya, Uganda, B. E. Africa,  
March 20th, 1908.

Being at the headquarters of our mission for a short visit, I saw for the first time, a copy of THE FIELD AFAR and as I remarked the many photos in its interesting pages, I take the liberty to send you some, hoping that you may find a place for them.

Two of the photos are of St. Anthony's Church at Budaka which was built last year. To build such a church as this in the wilds of Bukedi requires some human encouragement and above all, confidence in God. The church is built of sun-dry bricks and the roof is of grass stretched on poles. We have hardly any timber in this country. I had to make with my own hands the altars, communion rail, pulpit and confessional boxes, all of bricks. The church is 106 ft. long, 40 ft. wide and 43 ft. high. You will notice there are no seats as the negroes prefer to sit on the grass.

In the third photo, you will find some of my little blacks with the writer. One of the boys is holding a placard on which they have written, "Remember the missionary, and he will be able to remember us."

If you would like a short article let me know, and if among your correspondents there is anybody who would like to help out these youngsters I would be most thankful.

Very sincerely yours,  
ARNOLD WITLOW.

I have received your February (1908) number of THE FIELD AFAR, devoted to the interest of Catholic missions, writes Fr. Kenelly in a letter enclosed with his article. It is delightful and encouraging to hear that you prefer China and Japan, the two fields so quite abandoned by, and consequently unknown to, English-speaking countries. China alone has an estimated population of over 400,000,000, of whom only one million has entered the fold. The work to be still performed is, therefore, immense, and only awaits missionary laborers and assistance, spiritual and temporal, from those to whom the faith has been preached since centuries. It is the duty of all, the clergy as well as the layman, to bring the faith to those who sit in the darkness of pag-

anism. The clergy have to be to the front but they must be backed up by the faithful, especially those whom a superior civilization and a better economic system have abundantly supplied with the goods of this world.

THE FIELD AFAR is destined to promote a great and noble purpose, the work of building up Christ in souls. It has my approval and that of all our Shanghai Mission of which I send you a brief sketch herewith and hope you will find space to publish it in one of your next numbers.

I forward you also a postal money order for \$2.00 (two dollars) and wish it to be my subscription for four years to your generous, and, as I hope, successful venture. Herewith is a small contribution to your work,—a list of the cities, towns and open ports of China to help you to discover the whereabouts of missionaries throughout this vast Empire in which you take such interest. Let me know in what way I may otherwise assist you and what would suit your purpose in the shape of articles, news and photos? THE FIELD AFAR deserves every encouragement and I shall recommend it to all our Catholics.

Believe me, dear Father Walsh, with kind regards and best wishes for you and your work,

Yours sincerely in our Lord,

M. KENELLY, S.J.

St. Joseph's Church,  
Shanghai, China.

\* \*

FROM Father Fruytier, a young missionary who left Mill Hill a few years ago for India, has come a letter acknowledging the receipt of *An American Missionary*.

"I have read 80 pages and was struck with the sound and businesslike way in which the Jesuit Fathers in Alaska have conducted their mission. If we in India here have to suffer at times from the normal heat, Father Judge in Alaska surely must have suffered more when the thermometer fell 50 degrees below zero. Yet there is not a word of complaint in his letters.

You cannot imagine how welcome is the present of a book to a missionary. The evenings here in India are long and reading matter is at a premium, as books are too expensive for a missionary's purse. A book like the 'American Missionary,' besides being agreeable reading, is also very useful to us in missionary work. Occasionally I see an American Catholic paper, and I receive regularly THE FIELD AFAR. From these publications, I am filled with astonishment at the growth and work of the Catholics in America and I, too, believe that 'the world will see in America a people second to none in the sublime work of renewing the race of the earth.'

## THE RICE MITE BOX.

I wish also to thank you most sincerely for the kind gift of \$5.00. You may be interested to know that it was the first subscription I received for my church. From other sources I have been able to get together about \$400, about one third of the estimate of its cost. It may interest you also to know how I collect from my Christians here who are anxious to see the church built. To ask money from them is, of course, out of the question, as they are in abject

A PREMIUM BOOK FOR BOYS  
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poverty. Some time ago I, laid in a stock of small earthenware pots and went around the villages, giving one to every householder. The little receptacle is kept near the place where meals are prepared and whenever the good woman of the house is getting up a meal of rice, she puts a handful in the rice mite-box which is marked with a cross. At the end of the week, the rice is collected and when a sufficient quantity is collected it is sold. After the harvest, I also go about to collect some grain. In this way I hope to finish my church, although it, of course, will still take a long time.

Thanking you for all your kindness and recommending my Christians and myself to your prayers and to those of your co-workers, I am,

Very sincerely yours,

J. FRUYTIER."

KIND WORDS FROM OTHER  
SOURCES.

"I have received the splendid copy of 'Le Martyr de Futuna,' the Life of Blessed Pierre Chanel, who was a pupil and Superior of the College where I spent ten years," writes Bishop Chatron from Japan. "I have found in this volume some very sweet souvenirs of his days and I thank you sincerely for the gift."

Mutlur, Post. Tanali,  
Guntur District,  
British India,

"The copy of 'An American Missionary' you kindly sent me," writes Fr. Aelen, "came safely. Many sincere thanks for the same, a beautiful, most interesting book, especially for a missionary. Though missionary life in cold Klondyke may differ like day and night from our troubles and difficulties in the hot Indian plains, still it offers me any amount of examples of burning zeal for the salvation of souls.

Just when the book arrived, I had to go to visit some villages. I took it along and read it during these days, partly in my bullock cart, partly in the villages, whenever I had a leisure moment to spare. What struck me most was Fr. Judge's confidence in Providence, a thing we missionaries need so often. Once more my grateful thanks. I will keep the book carefully, and the rereading of it will always be a pleasure to me."

\* \*

It was of Théophane Vénard that a noted French writer said: "He was born with a rose-bud on his lips and a bird singing in his ear."



## IN THE HOMES OF MARTYRS.

## JUST DE BRETENIÈRES.

[Just de Bretenières, an alumnus of the Paris Society for Foreign Missions was beheaded for the Faith in Corea, March 8, 1866. He was one of two brothers, the only children of the Baron de Bretenièrre, whom the younger son, a distinguished priest, still survives at Dijon.]



THE great lines of railway from Paris to Lausanne and Marseilles run through Dijon. We took a morning train out of the Capital, determined on our way to Lyons to stop over and meet if possible, the brother of Just de Bretenières.

Dijon was preparing for the national holiday, when we arrived on the eve of June the 14th, at about 4 o'clock. The cab-driver whom we selected was well acquainted with M. l'Abbé Bretenières;—"Who in the city did not know him?" he asked. So we settled ourselves on the hot leather cushions under a white carriage-umbrella that threatened to collapse as we jumped over the pavements along the main thoroughfare, past interesting groups of statuary, into the great square. Then leaving the tramway line our driver turned into a narrow street and, with a jerk, drawing up his lank animal at an ornamental door-way flanked by solid walls of masonry, signalled us to alight. We did so willingly enough, and pulled a worn bell-handle that hung at the side of the gate. We were before the entrance of St. Francis de Sales College, of which Fr. Christian de Bretenières is the founder and principal.

The concierge, typical of his class, appeared. "Was M. Bretenières at

home?" He squared off a pace or two and looked at us suspiciously. What we probably were in the mind of this worthy porter we soon discovered. He asked us if we were trying to sell books and did not seem satisfied when we made reply in the negative. Hesitating a moment he directed us to a small waiting-room in the court-yard and disappeared. Several minutes passed and the street gate again creaked on its great hinges. A young priest who had evidently just returned from his walk appeared. We saluted, stated briefly the object of our visit, explained our limited time, and finally succeeded in moving him to make an inquiry. He left us suddenly and the concierge returned, looked us over again and said,—not a word. I was getting desperate when the priest came to inform us that M. de Bretenières was away from the city but would probably be visible the next day.

This was discouraging, as we expected by that time to be in Lyons. The priest suggested that we come early in the morning and, decided to wait over, we asked permission to take photographs. We found the

whom he had asked. All barriers fell to the ground and we made a triumphal entry into the inner court of the Bretenières Castle.

The College which now flourishes here is conducted on a high intellectual level and is widely known. The tuition is considerable for France, but the material advantages and the excellent courses of instruction draw to the school regularly more than three hundred young men who are taught by a finely trained body of professors, most of whom are members of the diocesan clergy, each in his line a specialist.

Our guide brought us at once to the chapel,—devotional and artistic in every detail. Above in the gallery over the entrance and enclosed in a space once occupied as the elder brother's bed-chamber, a room has been fitted up to contain various souvenirs of the martyr. Here Just passed studious and restful hours during eight years of his life. His bed is kept in one corner of this open-screened and hallowed enclosure. Near it hangs his seminary cloak and a much-faded hat. An oil-painting of the martyr, the work of his devoted cousin, Mme. de Bretenières is on the



THE COLLEGE OF ST. FRANCIS DE SALES AT DIJON.

(Once the city residence of the Bretenières family.)

'open sesame' to a good heart as soon as we disclosed our nationality. Did we know Monsieur A. of the Boston Archdiocese, who teaches in the Catholic University of Washington? We were surprised at the question, but soon learned that our interviewer, a professor under M. de Bretenières, had translated into French a volume on Buddhism, the work of this American priest about

wall, above a treasure-case filled with relics and precious memorials. What seemed to be the armor of a Corean soldier stood grimly on guard at one corner.

In the meantime we learned that the family originally possessed two other homes,—one now a Sub-Prefecture, where Just was born, at Chalons sur Saône, about an hour's railway journey towards Lyons; the

other still owned by Fr. Christian, at Bretenières, a small village five to six miles outside of Dijon and now the residence of Mme. de Bretenières, who, we were assured would be pleased to receive a visit from anyone interested in her beloved young martyr. We made up our mind to go at once to Bretenières before sun-set, so as to secure photographs, and in a short quarter of an hour we were well out of the city and on our way. The country was delightful and the road-bed even and hard. Our horse, stimulated by another that followed us closely, made a special effort to show his mettle. The vehicle behind us was a noisy market-wagon, drawn by a heavy animal, and carrying three sun-browned peasants who had delivered a load of fruit at the jam factory in Dijon, and were returning with empty cans, full stomachs and more or less replenished purses. We passed at good speed through several hamlets and after a considerable stretch of plain came to the village of Bretenières.

We recognized it by the graceful chateau, which a turn of the road brought into view, set in from the street, well shaded, with lawns extending on three sides as far as the eye could see. With a wave of the hand to our 'pursuers' who had helped us more than they knew, we drove past the lodge to the entrance of the Chateau. The blinds were closed and the place looked deserted, but a ring at the side-door brought the house-dog, followed by a servant who to our dismay informed us that Mme. de Bretenières had gone into the village and would not be home until late. This was not pleasant and we began an explanation of our mission. It was quite useless. We suggested waiting, but the searching curious eyes betrayed the hope that we should go,—and soon. We wondered if the sun, now rapidly sinking, would help us to impress at least the outside of the house on our memories, and borrowing a chair from the reluctant maid who deputed a man-servant to fetch the article, we posed the apparatus, attempted a few views, and mechanically folded the instrument, debating whether we should delay longer or return to the city. The decision was announced by a series of barks from the dog, who suddenly bounded down the path as Mme. de Bretenières appeared accompanied by her brother and a nephew. She had been disappointed in her visit, and happily for us, had at once returned.

The present mistress of the Castle at Bretenières is the widow of an exemplary and much-loved gentle-

man,—a first cousin of *Just* and *Christian*,—who died a few years ago, and whose loss she has doubly felt since they were childless. Mme. de Bretenières is a woman of middle age, cultured in mind and heart, and devoted as we afterwards learned to the poor of her village whom she visits regularly. She received us graciously and begged us to enter. Tea was served in the great hall, and I tried to imagine that I could see *Just* taking his own place in these pleasant surroundings of his youth. The conversation naturally drifted to America and the condition of the Church in France, until we turned the good lady's thoughts to the object of our errand. She brought us some photographs, and at our request pointed out the room occupied by *Just*. It was spacious, well-lighted and richly furnished. Here the future martyr slept, here too he studied, under the constant direction of tutors during the period preparatory to his college-course. Christian had occupied the adjoining chamber, and I recalled a query which the Abbé Hulst has noted. Both of these boys were much attached to their home at Bretenières, and when *Christian* was old enough to realize that it would fall eventually into the hands of his elder brother the little fellow asked *Just* if he himself would have to leave it then. The answer came immediately: "Don't worry Christian, it will never belong to me, for I am going to be a priest. It will be yours." And so it is Christian's, although he too has become a priest. But he is a steward and not the master of his master's goods.

We learned that the mother of these two sons exercised a constant vigilance over their lives, aiming especially to keep them from habits of idleness. To this end she held before them the highest ideals and always the supernatural motive. At times, forgetting their tender years, she used expressions which she felt on reflection were quite incomprehensible to her boys. These words were not always lost, however, for Mme. de Bretenières recalls one occasion when the mother overheard *Christian* asking what she meant by 'perfection'. *Just* answered that 'perfection is like a high mountain, very high; it costs much time and labor to reach the top, but one need not get discouraged for we can always get there if we wish.'

One of the several tutors brought to Bretenières for the boys' instruction was a young German priest to whom they both became much attached. *Just* wanted to know from

## THOUGHTS FROM MODERN MARTYRS

(Second Edition.)

BY

JAMES ANTHONY WALSH, M. Ap.

This dainty volume contains selected thoughts from the letters of three young martyr-priests, former students at the Paris Seminary for Foreign Missions.

JUST DE BRETENIÈRES,  
THÉOPHANE VÉNARD,  
HENRY DORIE.

PRICE, Postpaid,

In Cloth,	60 cents
In Leather, full, flexible red calf, with photogravures,	90 cents.

PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH OFFICE  
Union Park St., Boston.

his mother if all priests were not saints, and when he was delicately reminded that they were not all in that particular class he insisted that Fr. W. was a saint because he could see an aureole around his head when he taught catechism. *Just* referred to *Christian* in proof of this, but the latter could not give similar evidence. From this tutor the boys acquired, in addition to the regular course of studies, an excellent knowledge of German and English and a special taste for Geology. In vacation time travelling was the chief diversion of the family. Their excursions were oftenest on foot, a bag on their backs, a geologist's hammer in their hands, accompanied by their father, and at times also by the mother. For nine years they spent their vacations in this way, climbing the mountains and traversing nearly all the valleys of Switzerland, Savoy and the Vosges; and adventures were not wanting to the little party which served to enliven the fireside conversations on their return. On one occasion they were arrested as suspected perpetrators of a daring and sacrilegious robbery, and led through a town by five policemen, surrounded by a great crowd,—the evidence being hammers, chisels, and other instruments found on their persons.

Minerals, fossils, insects and birds were the object of their unceasing care during the whole year. To increase their knowledge, they visited natural history museums and corresponded with scientific men; until a celebrated geologist, who had them received into the Geological Society of France, said that he could teach them nothing more concerning the nature of rocks.

*Just's* tutor seeing him apparently so absorbed in his rocks and birds, even after his vocation had become clearly manifest, and his parting

from home near at hand, said to him one day at Bretenières: "What if you have to leave all this?" "Oh, that will not be hard," *Just* replied, "Don't you see I am only occupied with these things on account of my father and brother. It interests them now, and will take up their minds when I am gone."

The vacation journeys had another charm for *Just*, since in them he found opportunities to discipline himself for the rough life of a missionary. His vocation was always on his mind, and to brave heat and cold, fatigue and thirst was his schooling for the apostolate. He never lightened his clothing under the burning sun, nor added to it on entering a cold valley. He always lifted the heaviest rocks and gayly carried the weightiest sacks.

A proper appreciation of the fine

their wishes. The Dominicans attracted him, but when he learned that he could not be assured of a foreign mission if he joined this order, he consulted the Superior-General of the Sulpitians who advised him to enter the Seminary at Issy, near Paris, where he could begin his ecclesiastical studies and later come to a decision about his future field of labor.

These were interesting reminiscences which the interior of the Chateau vividly recalled, but most welcome was the invitation now extended by Mme. de Bretenières to visit the garden where *Just* had manifested so strongly, when a very little fellow, his call to the far East. We passed out of the hall door-way across the lawn to a path which led several hundred feet away to a simple cross

away Corea, lie the mangled remains of *Just* de Bretenières and his companions, and to-day, out of that soil, crimsoned by their blood, the tree of faith is bearing precious fruit.

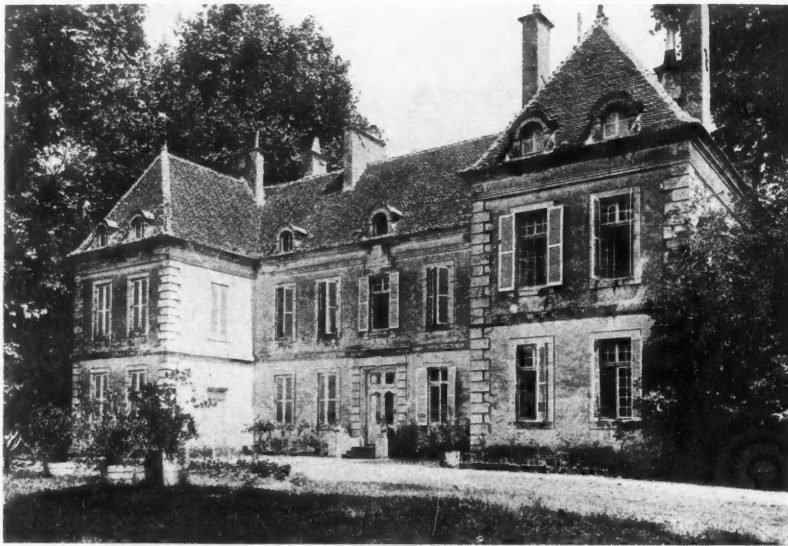
"The bodies of the saints are buried in peace and their names will live forever." The souls of the saints rejoice in heaven,—they who have followed in the footsteps of Christ, because for love of Him they have poured out their blood." (Brev.)

In the cool of the early evening we drove back to Dijon, silent and happy. *Just* had taken this road when he left for the Missions Etrangères of Paris. Monsignor d'Hulst, who knew him at this period, thus describes the young aspirant: "His tall figure plainly indicated health and strength; his countenance, usually pale, gave evidence of an energetic temperament; his lofty brow, framed by wavy hair, was full of nobility, but the greatest charm of his features was his eyes of infinite sweetness, wherein shone the light of courage. The frankness and modesty of his glance inspired confidence at once."

I recalled, too, on this occasion, the late beloved Fr. Barbier, S.M., of Boston, who remembered the day of *Just's* departure and had spoken to me of the event. Fr. Barbier's home was near Dijon. The driver of the carriage which had brought the future martyr to the railway station halted his horses and announced the news to Fr. Barbier who was then a young student. The *cocher* was quite indignant that this youth with such brilliant prospects should deliberately fling them aside and go off to China to be killed, and as he drove away he remarked with considerable vehemence that *Just* de Bretenières was a fool.

And so he was, but it is fortunate for the rest of us, I mused, that there are occasionally to be found in the world such fools; for the foolishness of the world is the wisdom of Christ. Would that there were more fools for His sake! We crossed the little bridge, made a final turn of the road and passed through the city to our hotel. The streets were gayly decorated and brilliantly lighted. A band was playing in the square, and several biographs were amusing the people with pictures thrown high above their heads, for the world of Dijon had begun in earnest the celebration of the festival.

Tired, and fortunate in finding quiet rooms, we were soon asleep and our slumber was unbroken as the "night before" in France is not made sleepless by intermittent explosions of cannon crackers under one's window.



THE CHATEAU AT BRETENIÈRES.

(Front View.)

arts, especially of music and painting, was given to the boys here at Bretenières, and when *Just* was 18 years of age he succeeded in passing a brilliant examination at Lyons, on which occasion he secured the Bachelor's degree. In the same year the two young men together translated into French a work of two volumes on Christian Art, by Dr. Neumayer, whom they had met in Germany and who expressed his surprise at their proficiency in his language, as in their knowledge of philology, history and philosophy.

It was while living at Bretenières that *Just* made known to his parents his desire to become a priest. They were quite reconciled to this idea but urged him to wait for two years on account of his influence over Christian, and he readily followed

erected in memory of this incident, to which I will refer later. Christian, who was a witness, told all to us the next day with his own lips. We knelt as pilgrims for a moment's prayer, and sauntered on to the little chapel, where Mme. de Bretenières, her servants and the people round about gather regularly for the services of the Church. In the crypt of this chapel lie the bodies of the Bretenières and in the church-yard under the shadow of the façade sleep the villagers of other days.

Returning along the path we plucked a few leaves from a vine that clung around the base of the memorial cross and I thought of this child of wealth struck to death for his love of Christ. The age of martyrs has certainly not passed.

In some unknown spot in far



### AN EASTERN SEMINARY FOR NATIVE PRIESTS.

[Fr. Jackson, who wrote the following article visited this country several years ago in the interest of the Mill Hill Missions in Borneo]

THE writer has had the pleasure of visiting several of the Seminaries now existing in the East for the training of native boys for the Priesthood. The largest one he has yet seen is the General Colleges at Penang, a place situated on the Malayan Peninsula, to the south of Asia. It belongs to the Society for Foreign Missions at Paris. The first Vicar Apostolic of Siam opened this College for the clerical education of the natives of Siam, China and Burmah. It continued to serve its purpose till the destruction of Yuthia in 1767. It was subsequently transferred to Hon Datt, in Cambodia. It was later on removed near Pondicherry, in India, where in the year 1782 it had to be unavoidably closed. In the year 1807 the college was re-established and located at Penang, where it has continued to flourish ever since. It is truly a wonderful institution, and one of which Catholics may well be proud. At the writer's visit he found over 100 students—natives of Burmah and the Malayan Peninsula, Siam, Cochin China, Tonquin, Cambodia, China, Japan and Corea. The professors are all secular Priests of the Society for Foreign Missions of Paris. The course of studies is that usually followed in the best ecclesiastical seminaries in Europe. On the completion of his studies the student is sent back to his own Bishop, who, after an interval of probation usually spent as a catechist, ordains him, should he have proved himself worthy of that great honor.

Having youths of so many different nationalities living under one roof, and following the same course of studies, it is necessary to have a common language. As all these youths are intended for the priesthood and must know Latin in any case, it was decreed by the founders of this College that Latin should be the ordinary language of the house. It struck the writer as a very strange and singular sight to hear boys of many Eastern countries, each one retaining his national dress, speaking Latin as the ordinary language of conversation with a degree of fluency and accuracy truly inspiring. It should be mentioned that, lest they should forget them, they are allowed to speak their native languages on Sundays and Festivals.

The College is beautifully situated

and not far from the sea. Everything in and about it was in excellent condition, and the whole place seemed to be carried on as quietly and as regularly as any ecclesiastical seminary in Europe or America. In the grounds of the College a small chapel was shown, around the walls of which tablets are placed inscribed with the names of former students who have been martyred for the Faith, and they were not a few.

\* \*

### THE BABES' TOMB.

HERE is a photograph which Sr. Xavier slipped into one of her latest letters, and she has written in explanation on the reverse side:



*A common tomb for depositing babies' coffins. When full all around is encumbered with them. At certain dates the tomb is emptied and boats full of tiny coffins are taken to the mountains to be burnt. On the top you see what looks like a bundle. It is a baby who has not yet a tooth, wrapt up in a bit of matting. No tooth means no soul,—therefore no coffin."*

Our readers will remember that else where in these columns it has been noted that the Chinese mother who kills her infant does so before the child begins to teethe.

\* \*

### PURCHASE OF SLAVES.

IT is true that the powers of Europe abolished African slavery as regards its most horrible features. One does not see such a great market for human flesh in Tabora, Ujiji, etc., but what the missionaries still see is the frightful destitution of thousands of children and adults whom war, murder, superstitions and sorceries have caused to be delivered to pagan or Mussalman masters whose cruelty nothings equals,

unless it is the misery itself of the poor slaves. Every week, every day in fact, our missionaries would gladly go out to deliver these unhappy creatures, especially the little ones, if they had the means to do so. The purchase of a slave amounts to at least \$20.00. Those who give this amount become the adoptive parents of the children secured, who latter take at baptism the names designated by their benefactor.

\* \*

### SCHOOLS AT CANTON, CHINA.

THE students in Bishop Merel's diocese are most anxious to get abreast of the times. Nearly all of them wear European uniforms. On the slightest pretext the schools file out into the narrow streets of Canton under an escort of drummers and bugle corps. The professors on these occasions march alongside of their pupils and those in command step with considerable spirit, sabres in hand. The amazed people leave their shops to go out and see young China on parade. Old white haired women cry out 'It is the spirit of the foreign devils that has bewitched the Kingdom!'

Even the girls march in the street two by two, hand in hand, dressed in uniforms of bright colors, as Yale blue, Alice blue, violet and the like. Across the breast they wear a badge on which is engraved some letter or character indicating the school to which these "modern damsels" belong. The girls envy considerably the equipment of their brothers and would like also to have drums and bugles, but their modernism has not yet reached this point.

The school children of Canton see only the external side of this movement which is leading them towards the more complete curriculum of modern education. The serious side will come later, but it will surely come, and the great Chinese giant who is to-day waking from his long sleep will disclose himself in all his greatness before an astonished world. May God give this mighty giant the true Faith which alone teaches the proper use of all power.

### DIRECT TO THE MISSIONS.

Contributions for specified missions and mission needs are now distributed directly from the Boston Diocesan office.

A correspondence has already been established with bishops in various portions of the world, and as printed receipts accompany each remittance, acknowledgments are received with the smallest possible loss of time.

THERE is a letter for Our Young Apostles, all the way from Africa. Turn over the leaves of your Geography. Now find the continent of Africa. Look down towards the centre at the right for British East Africa. Fr. Burns, the writer, lives here in Uganda, at a little place called Kakamega. It took over a month for this letter to come.

My dear Young Apostles:—

Lately I have been reading in THE FIELD AFAR Father Ignatius' page to the Young Apostles, and a thought came to me that perhaps a letter from a missionary in Africa would find a welcome among you. As you learn in your geography class, Africa is a big country, full of animals, and

#### HOW TO OVERCOME THIS EVIL.

To put an end to all this is the work of all Catholics. It is both your work and mine. Jesus Christ Himself has said "Suffer little children to come unto Me, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." In a way all Africans are children. Their ideas are childish, and like children, they are easily attracted to the worship of the Holy Babe of Bethlehem. You can help in their conversion to Jesus Christ by your daily prayers on their behalf, for the prayers of little children are heard in heaven. You can also assist your black brothers and sisters in Africa by promoting among your friends and relatives work for the propagation of the faith. And maybe in reward for all this God Almighty will vouchsafe to call some of you to assist in the conversion of these,



FR. BURNS.

full of people. It has been called the "Dark Continent," and certainly it is a very dark land indeed, although the sun shines on it very brightly throughout the year. Almighty God, whom we call "Our Father" is unknown here, His only Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, has few followers here and the Holy Family of Nazareth has very few imitators here. Evil spirits take their place and instead of falling down on his knees and praying Almighty God, "Give us this day our daily bread," the African sacrifices fowls and goats to these evil spirits. In time of drought, instead of offering Almighty God some work of penance, the African flies to the witch-doctor. In case of sickness, instead of addressing Almighty God with those words, "Thy Holy Will be done," the poor African summons the witch-doctors and they, after consulting the evil spirits, prescribe a cure for him.

his people. Everything counts in His service,—the lowly cup of cold water given in His name to the weary traveller and the short prayer for the conversion of the heathen nations of the world.

So, my dear Young Apostles, redouble your little efforts. Be constant in saying daily some little prayer to Almighty God for the blacks of Africa and enroll yourselves as canvassers for the propagation of the faith. When friends and relatives visit your parents' homes, bring forward your "Missionary Mite-Box" and now and again put in it a cent of your own. God Almighty will reward you, and your black brothers and sisters, whom you have assisted into heaven by your prayers and good works, will themselves thank you and look up to you in God's country as their true brethren and benefactors.

Your fellow-apostle in the Vineyard,

FRANCIS M. BURNS.

## The Field Afar

#### PREMIUMS.

##### FOR 3 NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS.

A Propagation of the Faith Emblem or A Framed Photogravure of the Ven. Théophane Vénard.

##### FOR 6 NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS.

"The Story of a Mission Indian."

##### FOR 10 NEW SUBSCRIPTIONS.

"A Modern Martyr" or "Thoughts in Leather" or "An American Missionary."

#### FRIENDS IN OLDTOWN.

FR. BURNS will be as pleased as Fr. Ignatius is to see the following lines from Oldtown, showing as they do, the great interest which children in Maine are taking in THE FIELD AFAR. Every new reader of our paper becomes a friend of Catholic missionaries because he learns to appreciate what these exiled heroes and heroines are doing for God and for souls.

St. Joseph's Convent,  
Old Town, Me.

Dear Reverend Father,—

Please find enclosed a money order for six dollars (\$6.00) the subscription fee for twelve copies of THE FIELD AFAR to be sent to the enclosed addresses.

Let me thank you in the name of the children for the photos you so kindly sent Christmas. It is through the efforts of these young apostles that your valuable periodical is being circulated here.

If you will please send me a mite-box, I shall have the Sodalists take it to their homes alternately for a few weeks, hoping by this means to help along the great work of saving souls.

I remain,

Sincerely yours in the Sacred Heart.  
Sister—

\* \*

THE Diocesan Office has lately received a carefully prepared album of Chinese views, illustrating the different phases of Catholic activity in the Province of Chen-Kiang. Accompanying this gift is a letter from Fr. J. M. Fraser, the sender:

Catholic Mission,

Ning-po, China.

"After a about a year's labor, I have at last finished the album I promised you. I hope the time was not wasted. I deemed such a work necessary for your office. It gives a full description of one parish in China and all the photos (except one) are up to date. One photo (the pagan temples), I understand, took about 100 plates to make. The photos, you see, are in natural order and with very little trouble and in a very short time, even the simplest of your visitors can get a thorough insight into the workings of a mission in China. I send you the photos in embroidered covers. I did not wish to stick them on pages for-seeing that you would make use of some of them in your various publications. After that you can easily put them together in album form. Show them to His Grace, Archbishop O'Connell. I intend to make up a similar work, somewhat more developed for His Holiness, Pius X."

J. M. FRASER.

### FROM THE FIELD. China.

(Communicated to *The Field Afar* from Shanghai.)

#### THE ANTI-OPIMUM CAMPAIGN IN CHINA.

THE suppression of the opium evil achieved great success during the year 1907. In Pekin, officials have been suspended or dismissed from their posts for failure to rid themselves of the habit, while in a few cases the death of an official has been attributed to his abstinence from the baneful drug. In October it was found necessary to extend by three months the term within which civil and military authorities in the Provinces would be expected to give up smoking.

closed in the native city since June 22, 1907.

#### THE STUFF WHEREWITH ROBBERS AND PIRATES ARE MADE IN CHINA.

Camps of old soldiers in the neighborhood of Soochow, Kiangsu Province, were all disbanded last year. When the weather becomes cold, these have no rice to eat—the staple diet in Central China—and make a precarious livelihood out of plundering the homes and storehouses of the rich. The robbers and pirates who lately infested Kiangsu and Chênkiang Provinces are all discharged soldiers.

#### PROTECTION OF MISSIONARIES.

In view of the activity of robbers, smugglers and secret societies in the

from the school in which he studies. The order adds that the cropping of the pigtail is out of harmony with the national costume.

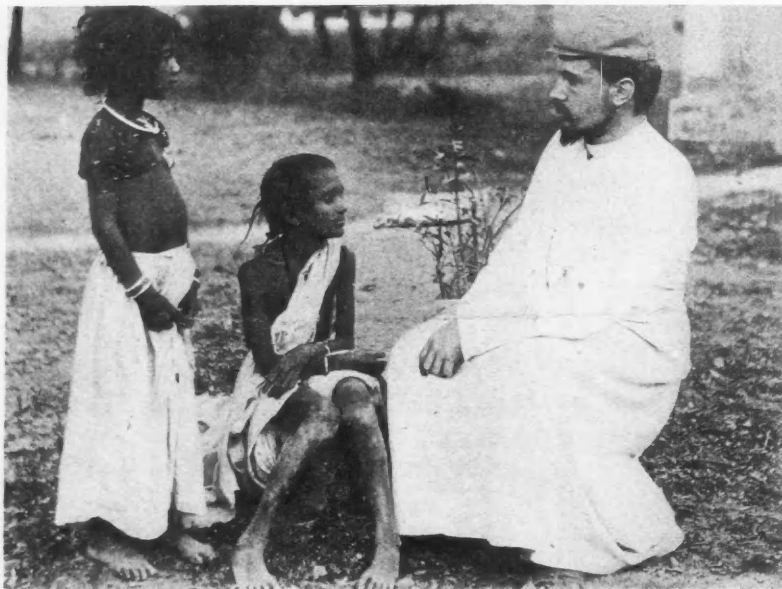
#### FAMINE STILL RAGING IN NORTH KIANGSU.

The Chênkiang (Kiangsu Province) Famine Relief Committee is still giving out relief in Ngantung, Yangchow, Nanking, and Chênkiang (160 miles north from Shanghai). There are still a great many refugees in the three latter places.

\* \*

#### Africa.

Kisumu Post Office.  
Kakamega, Kisumu Province,  
British East Africa.



1. A photograph of Fr. Aelen giving catechism in India. Inside the chapel it is too hot, so all gather under a tree. Two children stand up; one asks the question, the other gives the answer, which is then repeated by all until they know it by heart. A rather tedious work, but it has to be done.

During the past year opium dens in numerous towns were closed, though strict measures have not been always adopted to restrict the sale of the drug. The enforcement of the government regulations depends everywhere on the co-operation and good will of the local officials. In view, however, of the popular feeling against this vice, both the production and the sale tend to diminish gradually but slowly.

#### SHANGHAI FOREIGN SETTLEMENT AND OPIMUM SUPPRESSION.

The Shanghai Municipal Council in the International Settlement will reduce the number of licensed opium dens within its jurisdiction by one-fourth from July next. All dens are

interior of Kiangsu Province, the Governor has instructed his subordinates to take extraordinary measures for the protection of the life and property of missionaries and prevent any cause of disturbance or complaint. The individual Chinaman is proverbially improvident and as much may be generally said of the government, despite all promises to the contrary.

#### STUDENTS MUST KEEP TO THEIR PIGTAILS.

The Commissioner of Education of Soochow, Kiangsu Province, has issued an injunction to the effect that in future no students shall be allowed to cut their pigtails or wear foreign clothes, and should any student disobey he will be dismissed

DIFFICULTIES are beginning to crop up in British East Africa mission. To give an idea of what missionary difficulties are like, Fr. Burns mentions an odious custom—"Trial by ordeal." Persons accused of crime, such as murder, bewitching and theft, are, in case they deny the charges, challenged to undergo the ordeal. Accused and accuser are given a poisonous draught mixed with native beer and stand facing each other. If the accused is the first to fall senseless to the ground, he is declared guilty and sentenced. If, however, the accuser is the first to succumb to the poison, the innocence of the accused is declared proven. Sometimes the poison proves fatal, while in other cases when the man is of a strong constitution he survives.

Another difficulty is the immorality of the people. Each chief has houses called "Massabo," occupied by all the young girls and women of the district, and here the boys and men seek their future wives. The conditions are such that the whole country is one hotbed of immorality. Our missionaries have informed the government of the custom of "Trial by ordeal," and it has been declared a criminal offence. Still it will not entirely cease at once. The "Masabo" business is a more difficult matter and will seriously impede work.

\* \*

#### India.

BAD news this time" writes Fr.

Aelen of Guntur. "The whole country is full of cholera. In several villages the sickness has spread and I am sorry to say that my headquarters and another village of mine have been attacked, too. Especially here in Mutlur we had many cases, but thanks to God, my Christians came off up till now, fairly well. We had a novena in honor of St. Joseph, and



no doubt, thanks to his intercession, only a few Christians did die. I have been very busy these last weeks. I visit all the persons who are attacked, Christians and heathens alike, and give them medicine. I don't boast of it, but I am quite sure that several heathens are still living because I was able to give them at once medicine. A few flatly refused to have me called, but the usual result was that they died within twenty-four hours. But with all my troubles and difficulties I am happy, for I had the pleasure of baptizing thirteen little heathen children, who are now praying for us. Let us hope and pray that the sickness will stop as soon as possible.

Enclosed are a few photographs.

#### Japan.

FR. A. VILLION, a missionary in Japan for 42 years, since 1879 has been able to penetrate into the city of Kioto, the centre of all the Buddhism in the Empire, and to reside there for ten years in the midst of 800 temples and 1,500 "Bonzes," who are obliged to make a deep study of Buddhism. Fr. Villion secured admission into one of the great temples, the Pozoda of Chi-on-in, head of the the sect of the Jodoshu, one of the most influential in Japan, which numbers 3,600 secondary temples and during four years he followed the course of the Bonze students and gathered documents which no other European has ever been able to obtain.

"For the past twenty years," he now writes, "I have continued my researches. At the suggestion of many friends, members of the Asiatic Society, I have worked for the past five years, putting in order all my manuscripts, which would make a work of three volumes in quartos. The work is a resumé of the complete history of Buddhism in Japan and it contains also an exposition of the doctrines of the 12 different successive sects in the Empire,—all of which was compiled from the writings of the most celebrated Bonzes of our day. I am, therefore, sure of the material which I have gathered. Religious persecutions in France, cutting off our resources here, I am pressed the more to have the work printed as an aid to our present poverty. A large sum, nearly 7,000 yen, about \$3,500, is required for the printing. I have with great difficulty put together hardly \$800. If some one were willing even to loan me the necessary amount in whole or in part, I am sure that I could pay it back at the end of two years: It would be a pleasant duty for us to dedicate this work of more than 30 years to this generous benefactor whom heaven would send me.

Your humble servant,  
A. VILLION.

"For there is no other name under Heaven given to men whereby we must be saved.—Acts, IV., 12.

#### One who Remembers Théophane Vénard.

FR. THADDEUS Wong is a native priest belonging to the diocese of Canton, China. He is getting old in the ministry but is still active. Fr. Wong recalls meeting Théophane Vénard, the martyr, shortly after the latter's arrival in Eastern Asia, and has lately written a letter to Eusebius Vénard, the Curé of Assais, in which he thus refers to his privileged experience.

"While I was on the island of Hong-Kong, studying Latin in the Seminary of St. Francis Xavier, I saw Father Vénard, who remained with us more than a month. He went to walk with us



FR. THADDEUS WONG.

several times, through the mountains and along the sea coast. He taught us how to plant flowers and fruit-trees, making the measurements and drawing the lines himself, so that our garden became very attractive, and was filled with fruit.

This priest, so good and kind, became a great favorite with us all, and we wished that he could stay longer. In witness of these few facts which recall the memory of Fr. Vénard, and in testimony of my gratitude to him, I implore his intercession in Heaven with Jesus Christ, the Saviour of all men, who in His infinite mercy deigned to bring to the light of Faith these gentiles of the East sitting in the shadow of death."

## A Modern Martyr

is now in its  
Fourth Thousand

These letters of Théophane Vénard have brought comfort and light to many a soul. They are a household treasure. The book has been perfected in the latest edition and the large sale has enabled us to reduce the price to ninety cents; postpaid, \$1.00

#### PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH OFFICE

62 Union Park St., Boston, Mass.

*A set of "Field Afar" Post Cards will be sent to any address on receipt of twenty-five cents in stamps.*

The Diocesan Office invites correspondence with colleges, schools and academies. Letters and photographs direct from the missions will be supplied from time to time, together with interesting material.

It has been our great privilege for the past few days to entertain the Bishop of Canton, China.

This saintly prelate has lately made his *ad limina* visit to Rome, after an absence of twenty-seven years from Europe.

He came to Boston, en route for Montreal and the Far East, simply to express to the Most Reverend Archbishop the gratitude which he feels for the co-operation of this Archdiocese in his work.

## NOTES AND COMMENTS.

**B**ISHOP Mérel, of Canton, China, has made friends during his brief stay in Boston and will be gratefully remembered by our Chinese Catholics.

From "a Subscriber" have come lines on "The Knight Errant" which compare the soldier of an earthly king with the Soldier of Christ. The thought contained in these lines is worthy indeed, but as the rhyme and measure are imperfect we do not publish the communication.

*The Magnificat* of Manchester, N. H., prints regularly an article illustrating work for Catholic missions. Its supply of interesting material need never run short because the field is a wide one and full of interest. The wonder is that more of our magazines, Catholic, and non-Catholic as well, have not discovered the mine of information and anecdote which it contains.

The May issue of *Catholic Missions* (New York City, \$1.00 a year) presents an especially attractive list of contents. "A Visit to Iceland in Summer," an enchanting region of the midnight sun, is described by the Rev. W. S. Kress, of the Cleveland Apostolate.—A sketch of the Hawaiian Mission, by Father Reginald, S.H.Pic., gives a brief but graphic account of apostolic effort in the interior of Hawaii.—"A Good Thief of Mavara" is a touching incident of missionary experience related by Father Bonhour, S.J.—"In the Heart of China," by the Rev. J. M. Fraser, tells of a journey among the mountains of the Celestial Empire.—"Missions in the South," by the Rev. Wm. B. Hannon, is an account of zealous work in our country.—"A Christian Festival in India" is depicted by Rev. A. H. Maurice.—Father Voltz, O.M.I., writes of his mission among the Kaffirs of Johannesburg, South Africa.—The Rev. A. M. Roussel treats of "Confucianism in Japan." The article that follows this learned treatise on Oriental philosophy, taking the reader from the Far East to the utmost bounds of the Canadian Northwest, impresses one with the world-wide field of the apostolate—it is the Rev. A. Turquetil's study of the Eskimo character. Editorial notes, missionary letters and notices of magazine articles relating to the missions, make up the number.

## STEREOPTICON LESSONS.

**W**E notice on the inside cover-page of a little magazine published for the mission of Shang-tung that the priests in this section of the world are particularly anxious to illustrate their teachings by means of the lantern. Evidently, in some parts of the mission field, this method has already been adopted, as we find in the same periodical an advertisement placed by a firm in Paris, announcing slides to illustrate the teachings of the church on the sacraments.

## MARCH 17, IN CHINA.

**I**N a timely issue of the *North China Herald*, we were especially interested to note the formal celebration of St. Patrick's Day in Shanghai. Exercises took place in a large theatre of the city and a most attractive programme was carried out, including songs, recitations and instrumental selections, recalling fine memories of the Emerald Isle.

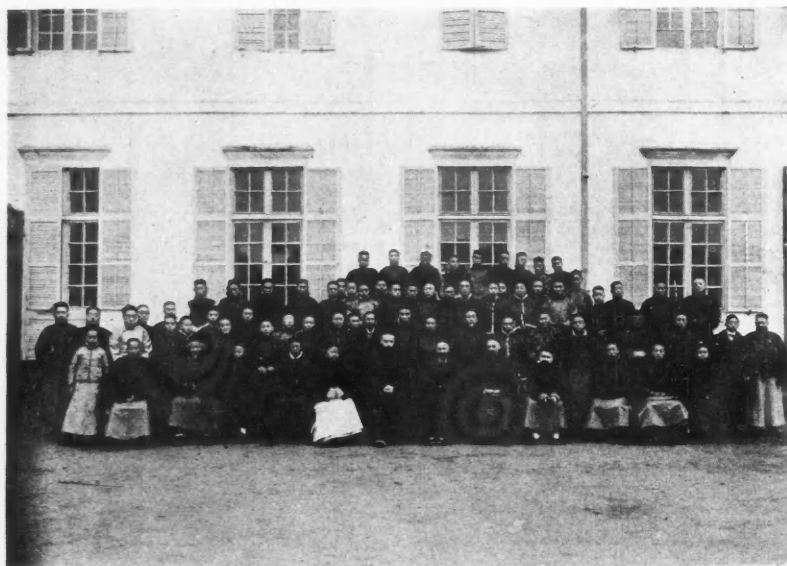
Among the songs were "The Little Irish Girl," "Fr. O'Flynn," and "Come Back to Erin," and the recitations included one entitled "In Micky Flynn's Sheneen." A violin solo used as its theme "The Dear Little Shamrock" and the hornpipe was not omitted. It is needless to say that the talent was largely imported. During the progress of the entertainment, congratulatory telegrams were re-

the interior and bring the light to those who sit to-day in the darkness of unbelief.

## THE AWAKENING.

**T**O-DAY the very well-to-do Chinese father wishes his child to receive a modern education. The boys are taught English and the girls are placed under governesses of liberal views.

Canton is abundantly provided with schools and colleges. The Americans have founded in the city a preparatory school which is attached to the University of America and gives diplomas under that title. The English are preparing to establish a great college under the auspices of the Young Men's Christian Association, and to which only those young Chinamen will be admitted who will consent to



THE SEMINARY AT SHANGHAI.

ceived from sister organizations in Hong-kong, Japan, and elsewhere along the coast of Eastern Asia, where the sons of Ireland evidently abound in larger numbers than some of us realize.

How few of us stay-at-homes realize the growing number of commercial men, sailors, and others along the coast of Eastern Asia, who hail from the United States and British possessions! Among these are many Catholics, who to our knowledge, find it difficult to confess in their own language. If Catholic young men can be found to exile themselves for material gain we ought to find some few, at least, to follow them, as preachers of the Word and dispensers of the mysteries of God. And to these we should add others to penetrate into

pray after the 'Protestant fashion.' As yet, there is only a preparatory school. It is presided over by an English school-master although it is under the direction of a Chinese Society. The Catholic Mission has opened a college under the name of "The Sacred Heart," where the English, French and Chinese languages together with the Sciences and Music are taught.

**B**ISHOP GRAMIGNA of Allahabad, in acknowledging a remittance, writes that he has just been informed by the priest in charge of one of the native districts that the harvest reaped from crops this year amounts to just 35% of the seed that was sown.

UNITED STATES PRIESTS IN THE  
HEART OF CHINA.

A FEW months ago the headlines of one of our daily papers in the Middle West announced that two priests of the Franciscan Order were about to start for China. They were Father Angelus Blessner of Springfield, Ill., and Father Juniper Doolin of San Francisco. These young men departed from San Francisco for Shen Si, China, in company with Bishop Athanasius Goette October 9th, 1907, and arrived at their destination a few days before Christmas, after 23 days on the ocean. During the voyage they touched Honolulu and Yokohama. A few weeks ago news reached this country that Bishop Goette had died. In the meantime a letter has arrived at the diocesan office from one of these priests, Father Blessner, written evidently before this sad event had taken place. Father Blessner's letter is quite refreshing, coming as it has from one of the few American boys in China. He writes:

But best of all because of the possibility of greater usefulness is the realization that we are certainly beginning to send missionary priests from the United States to the heart of China.

"Indeed, I am a perfect stranger to you 'ratione nominis, etc.,' yet a perfect acquaintance 'ratione occupationes, etc.'" I'm laboring for the same divine end for which you, dear Father, and your helpers are toiling, you in the comparatively comfortable States, I in uncomfortable poor, dirty, ignorant, heathen China!

I suppose you read that October 9th, last, two young Franciscan Fathers of the St. Louis, Mo., Province bade adieu to Uncle Sam at San Francisco, to devote their lives to the wretched millions in the vast Chinese field, viz., Fr. Juniper Doolin, O.F.M., an Irish-American of San Francisco, and myself, a German American of Springfield, Ill. We and our Vicar Apostolic, Mgr. Athanasius, and his brother Fr. Capistran Goette here in Shensi and Fr. Sylvester Espelage at Wuchang, Hupeh, are the only American Catholic missionaries in this immense field of the "Cue bearers!" I've written a good 30-page letter on my trip hither and my quaint present surroundings to Mgr. Freri, who by word and deed kindly helped me to equip myself for this certainly noble undertaking. He has kindly promised to send his *Catholic Missions* and the annals gratis. Oh! how we do relish a paper here in the wilderness where men are dead and buried before the news reaches us.

To be brief, as I know you too are

ever occupied, a friend of ours lately sent us a copy of your *FIELD AFAR* (December, '07 number. Can't say we were not delighted exceedingly! That's right, Reverend and dear Fr. Walsh, help the Missions! God will, rest assured, reward you magnanimously! Having just received 10 cents in United States stamps (a friend in the United States desired an answer by all means and just think, enclosed 10 cents U. S. postage), I became somewhat anxious to obtain your advertised *Almanac of Catholic Missions* for 1908, 10 f. Surely you will do us the favor and forward the same to my address."

Fr. Blessner wrote later:

At present, I am very busy doing my "lovely best" to be able to hear confessions by Easter in "diabolical" Chinese (three months of study then). If your kindness would enjoy it to hear occasionally from us Americans in China's very interior let me hear from you. I hope our undertaking, besides giving a good example to Uncle Sam's Catholics, also caused you a little joy and encouragement.

I am well and happy, although, believe me, such a lot for a son of Uncle Sam is a veritable "purgatorial" one. Yet God wills it of me and He will reward it magnanimously.

Yours thankfully,

FR. AGNELL BLESSNER, O. F. M., M. A. P.

P.S.—Greeting from my Irish companion. I'll spin (per bike) to his preparatory desert at Whicetateze (good 12 miles from here) and celebrate St. Patrick's. I've found a little green ribbon for the occasion. You are welcome, too.

\* \*

## THE SEMINARY INFLUENCE.

The "Ave Maria" rarely allows a week to go by without some reference, direct or indirect, to the missions. In a recent issue, after describing the miserable condition of women laborers in heathen lands and the hope which Christian charity holds out to them, the editor remarks that narratives like this "would multiply contributions to our foreign missions if we were not so selfish, and worldly, and cold and indifferent, so narrow-minded and small-hearted, so lacking in zeal for the propagation of the faith which we profess to love."

We admit with the ever thoughtful editor of the "Ave Maria" that because of the characteristic failings which he has summed up not a few professed adherents to the Catholic Church fail miserably in their duty to the missions. It is our experience, however, that when the mission idea is clearly presented, especially from the altar, a certain proportion, not always considerable, yet a working few in each congregation will always be found to respond.

In Boston we base the hope of an ever-increasing interest in foreign

## A RECENT TRIBUTE.

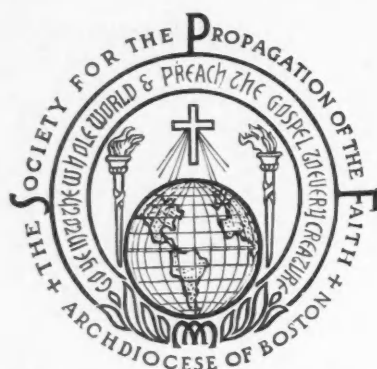
The life of Théophane Vénard is still keeping its hold on Catholic readers, and is finding its way into non-Catholic circles where it is bound to do a real missionary work. New testimonies come from time to time and we are pleased to add the following from *Truth*, the well known publication of Fr. Price in North Carolina.

The principal merit of this life and the secret of its tender charm and beauty is that it renders a subject to which the most sublime flights of epic poetry could not do justice in the meter of every day modern life. The life of a martyr is here told largely by means of letters, overflowing with expressions of brotherly and filial love written to his family from his mission stations, his precarious hiding places, the cage in which he spent his last days. All that has dropped out of the records of the early martyrs, in the course of ages, is here supplied and we see a human heart alive to every dear human interest, during long years preparing for the final act of entire immolation, in that act of perfect love of God, which is the martyr's part in the solemn tragedy to whose heroes Heaven's gates stand wide open. As we read how the Holy Viaticum was secretly conveyed to the martyr, awaiting the execution of his sentence, of the faithful flock fearlessly accompanying him to the place of execution, of the public expression of their grief and horror of the gruesome details of the final act, the effort to secure every part of the sacred relics, we feel that time has gone backward sixteen centuries, and we are assisting at the triumph of one of the Heroic Witnesses of the Ages of Persecution. There is another source of interest in this book to which we would call attention: the touching descriptions of the truly apostolic life of Catholic foreign missionaries, as given by the Venerable Théophane in his letters to his dear sister.

missions on the influence which has been exerted, and continues to make itself felt at the diocesan Seminary. The students there, we have excellent reason to believe, are keenly alive to the foreign mission idea; news from the field is received directly, and papers are regularly prepared treating on different phases of missionary activity. The Seminarians gladly spare from their usually small budget regular offerings for the missions. This influence may in some instances be dimmed when the pressure of many local duties and needs is brought to bear on the young priest, but a kindly sympathy for the missions will persevere and must bring forth fruit in greater or less abundance according to the disposition and the opportunities of the individual priest.

"Behold, I will save my people from the land of the East, and from the land of the going down of the sun."—Zach. VIII.





"Gather up the fragments that remain lest they be lost."—JOHN vi., 12.

REV. JAMES ANTHONY WALSH, M. A.  
Director in the Archdiocese of Boston,  
62 UNION PARK STREET, - BOSTON, MASS.

### Prayers Are Asked For

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Mrs. Nellie Conway	Mrs. Mary Burke
Patrick J. Conway	Mrs. Michael Collins
Margaret Gill	Mrs. Michael Kelliher
Mrs. Margaret Holmes	Mrs. Catherine Lynch
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Albina Dupries	

### ALL FROM HOLLAND.

ON the fourth day of April an unusually large number of missionaries departed for Dutch Borneo. There were six priests,—Frs. Mathieu, Justinien, Remi, Armand, Ignace and Salvator with Brothers Timothy, Alexis, Fauste and Domulus, all Capuchins from the province of Holland. The same day six sisters from the Congregation of the Immaculate Conception left Holland also for Borneo.

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### THE BOYS OF ST. PETER'S.

THE growing interest of our school children gives us the strong hope that some day the Church in New England will send not only the sinews of war but soldiers of Christ to the Mission-fields. A few weeks ago the Director of the Propagation Cause in the Archdiocese visited some classes of boys at St. Peter's School in Dorchester. A few days later he received a set of letters which pleased as much as they surprised him.

Here are two of them:

May 14, 1908, was a gloomy, rainy day, but in our classroom, I don't think we ever spent a more pleasant afternoon. about half past two P. M. there was a slight knock at the door, the monitor went to answer it, and who was it but Father Walsh, he came in, took off his coat, sat down and asked us which country we liked best to hear stories about? We told him China, and then he began. They were fine, all the stories he told us about China, Japan and India. Father Walsh said the world seems so much nearer than when he was a boy, he said once when he was crossing the Atlantic, a friend of his met him one morning on deck when they were in mid-ocean and told him that the night before, the captain had invited him to remain on deck as he expected a wireless message from another ship of the same line going in the opposite direction, and pretty soon the little thing on the mast began to click and the message was received, which proves how near those inventions are bringing the world together.

There was once a China-man sick, and after a time he sent for a priest. The priest noticed a small piece of wood with some red wool stuck to it, hanging at the head of the bed. He asked what it was, and the Chinese said it was a charm. After he became a Christian, he gave it to the priest and he sent it to Father Walsh for his office. In some places in India the priests are so poor that they give out little boxes for the collection of rice. The mother of the family puts in a few grains of rice each day and at the end of the month, they return them to the priest who puts it all together and sells it to buy things more necessary.

JOHN MCPENAKE.

I believe, we never before had such a great privilege bestowed on us as we had on May 14, 1908, when Rev. Father Walsh visited us and told us many interesting things about the "propagation of the faith" in China and other foreign countries.

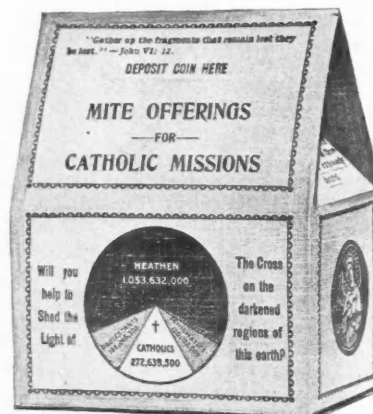
First, he told us that the poor Japanese

and Chinese people think that in America there are no Catholics at all, and won't believe it unless some of their own people come to America, and when they go back to them and tell them about the Catholics here.

In Japan they have such queer ideas about their gods. In front of one of their idols there is a big iron railing and at one end near the gate there is a basket filled with paper. When anybody has a tooth ache for example, they come and take a piece of paper and put it in their mouth and chew it awhile, then they take it out and throw it at the false god, and if they hit the god in the cheek, their tooth ache is supposed to go away. He told us many other lovely things, but, if I told them all I would never finish.

FRANCIS MCSWEENEY.

✱ ✱



Our new Mite-boxes are sent flat, but folded as shown above. They are intended especially for households where members of the family, young and old, visitors as well, may find the occasion from time to time to express in a practical way their interest in the spread of faith. These little messengers do not ask the substance of your offerings for charity. The home, parochial, and diocesan needs claim this. They seek the crumbs that are left over and are best served when they receive the mite that is saved by some act of self denial.

✱ ✱

Legacies should be made out to THE BOSTON DIOCESAN DIRECTOR FOR THE PROPAGATION OF THE FAITH. Headquarters: Cathedral Residence, Boston, Mass.

✱ ✱

Enclose fifty cents in stamps for the Field Afar, with your name and address.

If you prefer, mail us a dollar bill and we will enroll you for two years. Of course postoffice money-orders, or registered letters, or express checks are safer.

When you change your residence be sure to send the old as well as the new address.

✱ ✱

The next issue of the "Field Afar" will be in August. Subscribers who wish their address changed, should notify us, giving both the old and new address.

**S**ISTER St. Joseph of the Sangor provinces in India writes a gracious note of thanks to the children of St. Peter's School, Dorchester, who lately sent to her a copy of the "Modern Martyr." She says: "God bless them, it is such a treasure to us. We are so poorly off in spiritual books that we gladly welcome such friends, and all of our sisters join with me in the expression of my thanks. When I have a little free time I intend to write to these dear pupils an interesting letter about our little pupils in India.

For the yearly support of a pupil  
at a mission school, \$10.00

✠ ✠

Wishing you God's choicest blessings,  
Very fraternally yours,"



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The Nuns of the Cenacle are now prepared to receive private retreatants and a limited number of lady boarders in their new convent beautifully situated on Narragansett Bay.

Public retreats will be given during the summer as follows:

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Retreat for Working Girls, July 22-27.

By Rev. Joseph Daily, C.S.S.R.

Retreat, more especially for Nurses, July 28 to Aug. 1.

By Rev. Joseph Daily, C.S.S.R.

Retreat, Aug. 18-22.

Preacher to be announced later.

Retreat, Aug. 24-29.

By Rev. William O'Brien Pardow, S.J.

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